

REMARKS

Claims 2-9 have been allowed. By this Amendment, Applicants propose canceling claims 10-15. Consequently, only allowed claims 2-9 are pending in this application and, therefore, this application should be in condition for allowance.

In the final Office Action dated July 11, 2003, claims 10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b, e) as being anticipated by Marquez et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,133,153) or Iijima et al. (Japanese Journal of Applied Physics, vol. 36, No. 9A, pp. 5498-501). In addition, claims 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marquez et al. or Iijima et al.

Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with these rejections, Applicants propose canceling claims 10-15 to render these rejections moot.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered, placing this application in condition for allowance. Timely issuance of a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

The final Office Action contains a number of statements and characterizations regarding the claims and the related art. Applicant declines to subscribe automatically to any statement or characterization in the final Office Action, regardless of whether it is addressed above.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned (571-203-2735) if a telephone conversation might advance prosecution of the application.

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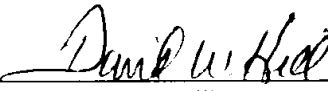
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Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 26, 2003

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